

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A process for decomposing a polymer into a monomer or oligomer by hydrolysis with sub- or supercritical water, characterized in that at least a part of the polymer is a polymer comprising a constitutional unit derived from an organic acid in the molecular structure, and the polymer being contacted with sub- or supercritical water in the presence of a water-insoluble base.

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Claim 2 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein at least a part of the polymer is a polyester.

Claim 3 (Original): A process according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a polyester having no chlorine in the molecular structure.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble base has a solubility in the range of  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$  to 0.5 g/100 g of water at 25°C.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A process according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from a compound of a metal of group II.

Claim 6 (Original): A process according to claim 5, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from a Ca or Ba compound.

Claim 7 (Original): A process according to claim 6, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{BaCO}_3$  and  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ .

Claim 8 (New): A process according to claim 2, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from a compound of a metal of group II.

Claim 9 (New): A process according to claim 8, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from a Ca or Ba compound.

Claim 10 (New): A process according to claim 9, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{BaCO}_3$  and  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ .

Claim 11 (New): A process according to claim 3, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from a compound of a metal of group II.

Claim 12 (New): A process according to claim 11, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from a Ca or Ba compound.

Claim 13 (New): A process according to claim 12, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{BaCO}_3$  and  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ .

Claim 14 (New): A process according to claim 4, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from a compound of a metal of group II.

Claim 15 (New): A process according to claim 14, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from a Ca or Ba compound.

Claim 16 (New): A process according to claim 15, wherein the water-insoluble base is selected from  $\text{CaCO}_3$ ,  $\text{BaCO}_3$  and  $\text{Ca(OH)}_2$ .